

*Youth Microenterprise
Conference
September 10th*



**Economic Strengthening for Orphans and
Vulnerable Children:**

**Challenges in Developing Responses and
Drawing on Best Practices**

Why is ES-OVC Important?

- Economic strengthening activities are critical to supporting HIV/AIDS affected families in their ability to address the needs of vulnerable children in their care
- Family make up varies
- Prime income earners are not necessarily prime caregivers in a family – father, youth
- ES-OVC acknowledges that roles can change

Work to Date in ES-OVC

- Many practitioners and donors alike have invested in describing “what works” – work of Jim Dempsey, Carolyn Barnes, HIV/AIDS Alliance, Jill Donahue
- There exist principles for improved practice, clear articulation of the importance of market oriented activities
- Yet, few activities have exemplified thoughtful ES-OVC

Challenges in ES-OVC

- It is complex and requires input from different professions – HIV/AIDS, Economic Growth and Safety Net, Others
- Finding a common ground among these areas of expertise is a challenge
- A gap exists between best practice design and implementation and assessments undertaken

Some Common Misconceptions

- Households are not ready for market activities
- The poor and young cannot save
- Why do market research, the product is proven
- Training alone leads to business success

ES-OVC Pilot Project

- Field Support is an LWA mechanism with AED as prime and leading a pilot project which includes a literature review of existing materials, a field mission and development of guidelines for donor consideration
- Save the Children is working with MEDA, Eco-Ventures International and MicroSave to develop these guidelines

Discussion on Ways Forward

- What are some ways to overcome challenges?
- How can different professions come together for more effective ES-OVC activities?